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Rip-Off Tour Bus Operator Apprehended

Refused to Pay Restitution to Victims

She promised the excited young girls a trip to Disneyland. She took the money the Girl Scouts raised selling cookies. After Girl Scout leaders learned she had no valid license to operate buses, they demanded a refund. She kept the money.

She is Virginia Clark, who was convicted in 1994 of multiple charges including grand theft for taking money from the Girl Scouts and other civic groups for bus trips that were never provided. The judge ordered her to pay restitution to her victims as a condition of probation, but she never did. Clark was finally arrested on May 8, 1997, and is scheduled to appear tomorrow, June 6, 1997, at 8:00 a.m. in the Presiding Department of the San Diego Municipal Court, Room 2013, 220 West Broadway, San Diego, to respond to allegations she violated the conditions of her probation. Clark faces a maximum punishment of two and one-half years custody and/or a \$5,000 fine. Clark is currently free on \$20,000 bond.

Virginia Clark, and her co-defendant husband Glenn Clark, operated the Family Connection Charter Bus Company and took money from several civic groups for bus trips they never provided. Other civic groups that were the victims of her crimes included the Knights of Columbus and the Jewish Community Center. The total amount of restitution the court ordered to these groups was \$3,310.

Clark was arrested after being tracked down by a City Attorney Investigator and members of the Police Department's Fugitive Apprehension Team.

City Attorney Casey Gwinn warned scam artists that his office will aggressively pursue those who refuse to pay restitution to their victims. Co-defendant Glenn Clark is still at large and anyone with information as to his whereabouts should call Janet S. Chelberg of the City Attorney's Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit at 533-5500.

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